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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	USNW-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-00	NEA-00	DCP-00
	NRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00
	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	FMPC-00
	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	BBG-00	IIP-00
	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/000W				

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1366
INFO AMEMBASSY ABUJA
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USLO TRIPOLI
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 000589

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR AF, AF/C, DRL, INR, P/M, LONDON AND PARIS
FOR AFRICAWATCHERS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/11/2015
TAGS: [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [CD](#) [VIP](#)
SUBJECT: GENERAL WALD COMES TO CHAD

Classified By: Political/Economic Officer Kathleen FitzGibbon for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: General Wald, Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command, visited the U.S.-trained Pan Sahel Unit and held meetings with President Idriss Deby, Minister of Defense Emmanuel Nadingar, and Chief of Defense Mahamat Saleh Kaya during his trip to Chad from April 10 to 11. President Deby reviewed with General Wald the terrorist threats facing Chad and appealed for international support to assist Chad in meeting the threat. Wald told President Deby that the U.S. will be continuing its training of Chadian forces over the long term. During his visit, Wald heard about the upcoming review of the Chadian military, which is set to begin on April 15. Wald also saw that U.S. military training is a great source of pride for the Chadian military and a solid basis for future collaboration. End Summary.

PAN-SAHEL UNIT VISIT

2. (C) Wald received a warm welcome from the Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) of the Chadian military that was trained under the Pan-Sahel Initiative in June and July 2004. The unit's designation was changed from the PSI unit to the ATU in August of 2004. It consists of 173 soldiers, 13 vehicles, 150 AK-47s, 12 PKMs, 6 RPG 7s, 16 radios, 16 GPSs, 17 binoculars, and 35 compasses. The unit had just returned from a six-week mission to southeastern Chad two hours prior to Wald's arrival. Wald reviewed the troops, U.S.-provided Toyota trucks, and radio equipment. He talked with the soldiers about their experiences on missions. The soldiers showed him how they pack everything that they need, including luggage, water, fuel, weapons, and ammunition into the back of the pick-ups. Each truck also carries fifteen soldiers on top of the vehicle. Wald was surprised to hear no one had ever fallen off. The soldiers indicated that they were ready for more training.

3. (C) In his briefing, Republican Guard Commander Col. Abakar Itno described the potential threats in northern Chad, the southern oil producing area, along the border with Sudan and the Central African Republic. He also described the difficulty controlling Chad's numerous frontiers against rebels, the GSPC, contraband, and other clandestine traffic. In addition to refugees, the Darfur crisis has brought environmental damage, arms traffic, conflict with local populations, and jandjaveed incursions. The Chadian military also is concerned that the instability in Darfur will have a spillover effect in Chad and that it could also make the country vulnerable to an influx of terrorism, contraband, and to the transit of Islamic fundamentalists on its border with

Sudan.

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PRESIDENT DEBY
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14. (C) President Idris Deby expressed appreciation for U.S. military assistance in his meeting with General Wald on April 10. Deby hoped that Chad's bilateral relationship with the United States could return to the level of cooperation experienced in the 1980s. He noted that the Chadian military is already benefiting from closer ties and said that many of Chad's top officers and engineers were trained in the U.S. Deby said that Chad has helped the international community's fight against terrorism and that Chad is very happy with the training it has received.

15. (C) Despite these initiatives, Deby continued, Chad is a large country and the number of troops trained to date are not enough to counter its many external and internal threats. According to Deby, the Darfur crisis presents opportunities for terrorists to infiltrate groups to cause harm to Chad. He pointed out that in neighboring Nigeria, there are foreign non-governmental organizations that provide cover for terrorist activities. Even in Niger, which is experiencing positive political change, there are extremist religious

leaders that hold key constituencies. Major American oil companies with a significant investment in Chad are also vulnerable. Deby pointed out that no country can face all these challenges alone and that a combined effort is required to defeat these threats. Chad is looking for ways and means, but lacks equipment and training to match the size of the threat. He expressed his satisfaction that the international community is incorporating the entire Sahel in its plans.

16. (C) General Wald praised the Chadian military's efforts against the GSPC and told Deby he was encouraged by Chad's willingness to participate in U.S. training programs. Wald said the U.S. European Command will continue its training initiatives, with a focus on the interoperability of various militaries. Wald announced that Chad will be the first country in which the U.S. begins its Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Training Initiative (TSCTI). He hopes that the TSCTI will include training over extended periods of time, perhaps from five to ten years, that will be complemented by information sharing, development of communications interoperability, and various training exercises. Wald emphasized that democracy, transparency, and a professional military are important to attracting additional U.S. cooperation. EUCOM also has programs for oil pipeline security, something that might be useful for Chad.

17. (C) Wald asked Deby about security in the Gulf of Guinea, where Chad's oil pipeline reaches the sea. Deby replied that the issue has only just begun to be discussed among neighboring countries. It was raised at the last summit of Central African countries, according to Deby, but no common strategy or policy has been established.

18. (C) Wald praised Chad's willingness to conduct a review of its military. Deby said that the current army is an amalgamation of various opposition groups that came to power with the government in 1990. They were kept in the military, but now the government is looking for ways to downsize the army to an appropriate size, clarify the military's mission and objectives, and transform the military into a national force.

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CHIEF OF DEFENSE MAHAMAT SALEH KAYA
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19. (C) On April 11, General Wald met with Chief of Defense Staff General Mahamat Saleh Kaya. Wald said he was impressed that the Chadian military is conducting a review of its size, composition, needs, and objectives. Wald told Kaya that the United States would like the TSCTI to be continuous and span a five to ten year period. He also stressed the importance of improving the interoperability of military forces in the region. Kaya described the Chadian military's relations with neighboring countries, like Niger, as good. However, Chad is concerned about problems with Sudan. Kaya also said that Chad needs an adequately paid, trained, and equipped military to best ensure the country's security. He also pointed out that all over Africa, there are poorly paid and trained militaries in countries with political instability. Kaya thanked General Wald for continuing U.S. training, but remarked that ultimately, it is the good will of the population that will win the war on terror.

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MINISTER OF DEFENSE
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10. (C) In meetings with Defense Minister Emmanuel Nadingar

on April 10 and 11, Wald discussed the importance of the military conducting a review of its role in society and areas for improvement and noted that Chad is one of the few countries in his area of responsibility that is carrying one out. Nadingar expressed Chad's interest in continuing collaboration. Wald told the Defense Minister that the ATU's success has demonstrated to the U.S. Government that Chad is a good partner. He also informed Nadingar that Chad will be receiving more U.S. training. He praised the Chadian military's operations in the north against the GSPC. Nadingar

agreed that the GSPC operation represented a new challenge for Chad and that more assistance is needed to help Chad avoid and suppress any future incursions. Nadingar also raised the issue of the possibility of obtaining spare parts for Chad's C-130 aircraft. He expressed appreciation for General Wald's previous comments that the U.S. would find ways to support the recommendations of the upcoming military review. The Defense Minister also requested assistance with providing two professors to conduct English language training with the Chadian military. He noted that downsizing and reinsertion of troops into society also will require support. Nadingar also told Wald that he hoped this would not be his last visit to Chad.

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COMMENT
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11. (C) Chadian officials were very pleased with General Wald's visit. It reinforced our current military collaboration and laid the foundation for future training opportunities.

12. (U) General Wald did not have an opportunity to clear this cable prior to departure.

13. (U) Khartoum and Tripoli Minimize Considered.
WALL

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